

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA RELEASE

Necropsy inconclusive, investigation ongoing in case involving dead dog in Cape Breton

Nova Scotia (Wednesday, February 17, 2010) – The Nova Scotia SPCA has received the necropsy results for a dog that was found dead in Cape Breton on February 3, 2010. The veterinary report was inconclusive regarding the cause of death, but did report that the dog was in good condition, had appropriate fat stores and appeared in generally good health.

The investigation is ongoing, but without a conclusive cause of death, the investigation will now be concerned with whether or not the specifics standard of care outlined in provincial and federal legislation were met.

The Nova Scotia SPCA first responded to a complaint at the address in question in October, 2008. The owner voluntarily complied with the Society's requests regarding standards of care. Follow up was conducted between October, 2008 and January, 2009, with a total of 5 visits. The owner remained compliant and nothing was noted in contravention of animal welfare legislation. On the last visit, the dog had been removed by the owner and the case file was closed. Following the initial complaint, the Society did not receive any further complaints regarding the property. Though the Society cannot be certain, the dog has the same general description of the dog from the 2008 complaint.

The Nova Scotia SPCA continues to advocate for tethering regulations under the current provincial animal welfare legislation. Current legislation outlines minimum requirements for animals, inclusive of adequate food, shelter and water, but does not address tethering restrictions or guidelines.

The Society responds to more than 1,500 complaints annually of suspected abuse, neglect and cruelty and relies on donor dollars and volunteers to support its lifesaving work. To report animal cruelty call 1-888-703-7722. To make a donation to support the Society or to learn more about how to get involved, please visit www.spcans.ca.

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ABOUT THE NOVA SCOTIA SPCA

The Nova Scotia Society for the Prevention of Cruelty (Nova Scotia SPCA): Protecting animals from cruelty since 1877, the Nova Scotia SPCA is a registered charity, comprised of 11 Branches, which relies primarily on volunteers and donations to fund animal protection; care and rehabilitation; advocacy; and humane education. An Act to Protect Animals and Aid Animals in Distress mandates the Society to enforce animal cruelty laws, making the Nova Scotia SPCA unique among animal welfare organizations in the province. To learn more, visit www.spcans.ca.

